

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

AARON M. BAGG STUDENT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Student Membership Awards in the Wilson Ornithological Society have been made available through funds generously donated in memory of the late Aaron M. Bagg, former president of the Society. The Student Membership Committee has designated the award recipients for 1978 as follows: Gary R. Alten, California State Polytechnic University; Darrel C. Boone, University of Maryland; Michael C. Delesantro, New Mexico State University; Claire L. Filemyr, Virginia Commonwealth University; Wayne Hoffman, University of South Florida; Anthony H. James, San Francisco State College; Samuel F. Jojola, New Mexico State University; Thomas R. Kemp, University of Toledo; Sandra J. Korowotny, Texas A&M University; Marc D. Longwood, California State University, Sacramento; Selby R. Mohr, California State University; Erica Nol, University of Guelph; Christopher M. Rogers, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Kathryn J. Schneider, Princeton University; Theodore R. Simons, University of Washington; Thomas W. Smith, Jackson, Kentucky; Shirley J. Thompson, University of Toronto; Melinda J. Welton, University of Connecticut.—James R. Karr, Chairman, Student Membership Committee.

1978 ANNUAL MEETING

The 59th annual meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Society will be held at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia, on 4-7 May 1978. The meeting will be hosted by the Brooks Bird Club, the Department of Wildlife Biology of West Virginia University, and West Virginia University.

A special feature of the meeting will be a symposium titled, "Resource Use Strategies in Birds," to be held on the afternoon of Friday, May 5th. The symposium is organized by Dr. Elliot J. Tramer. The chairman of the Local Committee is Dr. Robert Whitmore, Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506.

NOTICE OF A POSSIBLE NUMERICAL CODING SYSTEM FOR ALL BIRD SPECIES

Increased use of computers to store and process data about birds has precipitated a number of problems. One such problem is that of identifying the species (or higher taxonomic unit) under consideration. Many local ornithological organizations have solved this problem by identifying each species in their area with a unique code number (AOU number, for example). The proliferation of local systems could be avoided by development of an internationally recognized coding system for all bird species. The advantages of a standard system include international compatibility of records and facilitation of exchange of data and literature among countries.

Any new system must be taxonomically based, flexible enough to accommodate new species and taxonomic revisions, and be expandable for those interested in subspecific classification. For purposes of discussion, the following system is proposed. A worldwide numerical system will be based on Morony, Bock, and Farrand (Reference List of the Birds of the World, 1975. AMNH) with six digit numbers identifying each species.

Thus, each genus has numbers reserved in advance for up to 99 species and searches of data can be made rapidly and efficiently by computer for any taxonomic level. Individuals wanting subspecific identifications can simply add one or two digits to the 6-digit base.

